GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1325
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
DISEASE IN RICE CROPS
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rice crops in East Asia are being damaged by an insect known as the Brown Plant Hopper;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has examined the possibility of the insect reaching India and damaging the rice crop in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Brown Plant Hopper is an insect pest of paddy in rice growing countries of Eastern Asia. Recently, as per survey report received from State Department of Agriculture and Central Integrated Pest Management Centres, moderate to severe incidence of Brown Plant Hopper has been reported from Haryana and trace to moderate incidence from isolated fields of Kerala.

(d): Under the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one UT for pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and human resource development in IPM by imparting training to agriculture/horticulture extension officers and farmers at grass root level by organizing Farmers` Field Schools (FFSs). The basic aim of FFS is to train the farmers on the latest IPM technology so that they are able to take decisions in pest management operations. Under the scheme, so far Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage (DPPQ&S), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has organized 11,299 FFSs wherein 46,750 agriculture/horticulture extension officers and 3,40,356 farmers in different States/UTs have been trained on latest IPM technology in various crops including 6,302 FFSs in rice IPM wherein 23,872 extension functionaries and 1,88,209 farmers have been trained. Also, IPM package of practices for pest/disease management in rice and other 76 major crops have been developed in collaboration with State Department of Agriculture/ Horticulture/ICAR Institutions/ State Agriculture Universities which have been circulated to all States/UTs and have been posted on Directorate`s website www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin for the use by extension functionaries and the farmers. The Brown Plant Hopper can be managed by judicious use of nitrogenous fertilizers, conservation of important natural enemies like spiders, mirid bugs etc., continuous monitoring of the crop and timely insecticidal intervention. The Government of Haryana has issued a press note advising the farmers to undertake spraying of recommended pesticides and launched campaign to control the pest.